

that many cruise vessels intend to present to travelers;

(4) cruise vessels generate tremendous quantities of pollution, including—

- (A) sewage (including sewage sludge);
- (B) graywater from showers, sinks, laundries, baths, and galleys;
- (C) oily water;
- (D) toxic chemicals from photo processing, dry cleaning, and paints;
- (E) ballast water;
- (F) solid wastes; and
- (G) emissions of air pollutants;

(5) some of the pollution generated by cruise ships, particularly sewage discharge, can lead to high levels of nutrients that are known to harm and kill coral reefs and which can increase the quantity of pathogens in the water and heighten the susceptibility of many coral species to scarring and disease;

(6) laws in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act do not provide adequate controls, monitoring, or enforcement of certain discharges from cruise vessels into the waters of the United States; and

(7) to protect coastal and ocean areas of the United States from pollution generated by cruise vessels, new Federal legislation is needed to reduce and better regulate discharges from cruise vessels, and to improve monitoring, reporting, and enforcement of discharges.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to prevent the discharge of any untreated sewage or graywater from a cruise vessel entering ports of the United States into the waters of the United States;

(2) to prevent the discharge of any treated sewage, sewage sludge, graywater, or bilge water from cruise vessels entering ports of the United States into the territorial sea;

(3) to establish new national effluent limits and management standards for the discharge of treated sewage or graywater from cruise vessels entering ports of the United States into the exclusive economic zone of the United States in any case in which the discharge is not within an area in which discharges are prohibited; and

(4) to ensure that cruise vessels entering ports of the United States comply with all applicable environmental laws.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **COMMANDANT.**—The term “Commandant” means the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

(2) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(3) **TERRITORIAL SEA.**—The term “territorial sea”—

(A) means the belt of the sea measured from the baseline of the United States determined in accordance with international law, as set forth in Presidential Proclamation number 5928, dated December 27, 1988; and

(B) includes the waters lying seaward of the line of ordinary low water and extending to the baseline of the United States, as determined under subparagraph (A).

(4) **EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.**—The term “exclusive economic zone” means the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States established by Presidential Proclamation number 5030, dated March 10, 1983.

(5) **WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES.**—The term “waters of the United States” means the waters of the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, and the Great Lakes.

(6) **GREAT LAKE.**—The term “Great Lake” means—

- (A) Lake Erie;
- (B) Lake Huron (including Lake Saint Clair);

- (C) Lake Michigan;
- (D) Lake Ontario; and
- (E) Lake Superior.

(7) **CRUISE VESSEL.**—The term “cruise vessel”—

(A) means a passenger vessel (as defined in section 2101(22) of title 46, United States Code), that—

(i) is authorized to carry at least 250 passengers; and

(ii) has onboard sleeping facilities for each passenger; and

(B) does not include—

(i) a vessel of the United States operated by the Federal Government; or

(ii) a vessel owned and operated by the government of a State.

(8) **PASSENGER.**—The term “passenger”—

(A) means any person on board a cruise vessel for the purpose of travel; and

(B) includes—

- (i) a paying passenger; and
- (ii) a staffperson, such as a crew member, captain, or officer.

(9) **PERSON.**—The term “person” means—

- (A) an individual;
- (B) a corporation;
- (C) a partnership;
- (D) a limited liability company;
- (E) an association;
- (F) a State;
- (G) a municipality;
- (H) a commission or political subdivision of a State; and
- (I) an Indian tribe.

(10) **CITIZEN.**—The term “citizen” means a person that has an interest that is or may be adversely affected by any provision of this Act.

(11) **DISCHARGE.**—The term “discharge”—

(A) means a release of any substance, however caused, from a cruise vessel; and

(B) includes any escape, disposal, spilling, leaking, pumping, emitting or emptying of any substance.

(12) **SEWAGE.**—The term “sewage” means—

- (A) human body wastes;
- (B) the wastes from toilets and other receptacles intended to receive or retain human body wastes; and
- (C) sewage sludge.

(13) **GRAYWATER.**—The term “graywater” means galley, dishwasher, bath, and laundry waste water.

(14) **BILGE WATER.**—The term “bilge water” means wastewater that includes lubrication oils, transmission oils, oil sludge or slops, fuel or oil sludge, used oil, used fuel or fuel filters, or oily waste.

(15) **SEWAGE SLUDGE.**—The term “sewage sludge”—

(A) means any solid, semi-solid, or liquid residue removed during the treatment of municipal waste water or domestic sewage;

(B) includes—

- (i) solids removed during primary, secondary, or advanced waste water treatment;
- (ii) scum;
- (iii) septage;
- (iv) portable toilet pumpings;
- (v) type III marine sanitation device pumpings (as defined in part 159 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations); and
- (vi) sewage sludge products; and
- (C) does not include—

- (i) grit or screenings; or
- (ii) ash generated during the incineration of sewage sludge.

(16) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

SEC. 4. PROHIBITIONS AND CONDITIONS REGARDING THE DISCHARGE OF SEWAGE, GRAYWATER, OR BILGE WATER.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2) and section 11, no cruise vessel

entering a port of the United States may discharge sewage, graywater, or bilge water into the waters of the United States.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—A cruise vessel described in paragraph (1) may not discharge sewage, graywater, or bilge water into the exclusive economic zone but outside the territorial sea, or, in the case of the Great Lakes, beyond any point that is 12 miles from the shore unless—

(A)(i) in the case of a discharge of sewage or graywater, the discharge meets all applicable effluent limits established under this Act and is in accordance with all other applicable laws; or

(ii) in the case of a discharge of bilge water, the discharge is in accordance with all applicable laws;

(B) the cruise vessel meets all applicable management standards established under this Act; and

(C) the cruise vessel is not discharging in an area in which the discharge is otherwise prohibited.

(b) **SAFETY EXCEPTION.**—

(1) **SCOPE OF EXCEPTION.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case in which—

(A) a discharge is made solely for the purpose of securing the safety of the cruise vessel or saving a human life at sea; and

(B) all reasonable precautions have been taken for the purpose of preventing or minimizing the discharge.

(2) **NOTIFICATION OF COMMANDANT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the owner, operator, or master, or other individual in charge, of a cruise vessel authorizes a discharge described in paragraph (1), the individual shall notify the Commandant of the decision to authorize the discharge as soon as practicable, but not later than 24 hours, after authorizing the discharge.

(B) **REPORT.**—Not later than 7 days after the date on which an individual described in subparagraph (A) notifies the Commandant of an authorization of a discharge under the safety exception under this paragraph, the individual shall submit to the Commandant a report that includes—

(i) the quantity and composition of each discharge made under the safety exception;

(ii) the reason for authorizing each discharge;

(iii) the location of the vessel during the course of each discharge; and

(iv) such other supporting information and data as are requested by the Commandant.

SEC. 5. EFFLUENT LIMITS FOR DISCHARGES OF SEWAGE AND GRAYWATER.

(a) **EFFLUENT LIMITS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant and the Administrator shall jointly promulgate effluent limits for sewage and graywater discharges from cruise vessels entering ports of the United States.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The effluent limits shall—

(A) require the application of the best available technology that will result in the greatest level of effluent reduction achievable, recognizing that the national goal is the elimination of the discharge of all pollutants in sewage and graywater by cruise vessels into the waters of the United States by 2015; and

(B) require compliance with all relevant water quality criteria standards.

(b) **MINIMUM LIMITS.**—The effluent limits under subsection (a) shall require, at a minimum, that treated sewage and graywater effluent discharges from cruise vessels shall, not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, meet the following standards: